

Preliminary Amendment
Based on PCT/JP2003/014013

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A cellulase having (1) an amino acid sequence in which a 162nd amino acid and/or a 166th amino acid in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 are substituted, or (2) an amino acid sequence in which one or plural amino acids are added to or deleted from the N-terminus of the amino acid sequence (1).
2. (original): The cellulase according to claim 1 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.
3. (original): The cellulase according to claim 1, wherein the amino acid at the 166th position is substituted with glutamic acid or aspartic acid.
4. (original): The cellulase according to claim 3 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.
5. (original): A cellulase having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5.
6. (currently amended): A polynucleotide encoding the cellulase according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1.
7. (original): An expression vector comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 6.
8. (original): A host cell transformed with the expression vector according to claim 7.

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9. (currently amended): A process for producing the cellulase according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, comprising the steps of:

cultivating the host cell ~~according to claim 8~~, and

collecting the cellulase from the host cell and/or culture obtained by the cultivation.

10. (currently amended): A cellulase preparation comprising the cellulase according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1.

11. (currently amended): A washing composition comprising the cellulase according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 or the cellulase preparation ~~according to claim 10~~.

12. (currently amended): A method of treating a cellulose-containing fabric, comprising the step of bringing the cellulose-containing fabric into contact with the cellulase according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, the cellulase preparation ~~according to claim 10~~, or the washing composition ~~according to claim 11~~.

13. (currently amended): A method of reducing fuzzing of a cellulose-containing fabric or reducing a rate of the formation of fuzz, comprising the step of bringing the cellulose-containing fabric into contact with the cellulase according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, the cellulase preparation ~~according to claim 10~~, or the washing composition ~~according to claim 11~~.

14. (currently amended): A method of reducing weight to improve the touch and appearance of a cellulose-containing fabric, comprising the step of bringing the cellulose-containing fabric into contact with the cellulase according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, the cellulase preparation ~~according to claim 10~~, or the washing composition ~~according to claim 11~~.

15. (currently amended): A method of color clarification of a colored cellulose-containing fabric, comprising the step of bringing the colored cellulose-containing fabric into contact with the

cellulase according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, the cellulase preparation ~~according to claim 10~~, or the washing composition ~~according to claim 11~~.

16. (currently amended): A method of providing a localized color variation to colored cellulose-containing fabric, comprising the step of bringing the colored cellulose-containing fabric into contact with the cellulase according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, the cellulase preparation ~~according to claim 10~~, or the washing composition ~~according to claim 11~~.

17. (currently amended): A method of reducing stiffness of a cellulose-containing fabric or reducing a rate of the formation of stiffness, comprising the step of bringing the cellulose-containing fabric into contact with the cellulase according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, the cellulase preparation ~~according to claim 10~~, or the washing composition ~~according to claim 11~~.

18. (currently amended): The method according to ~~any one of claims 12 to 17~~claim 12, wherein the treatment of the fabric is carried out by soaking, washing, or rinsing the fabric.

19. (currently amended): A method of deinking waste paper, comprising the step of treating the waste paper with the cellulase according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1 or the cellulase preparation ~~according to claim 10~~ together with a deinking agent.

20. (currently amended): A method of improving a freeness of paper pulp, comprising the step of treating the paper pulp with the cellulase according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1 or the cellulase preparation ~~according to claim 10~~.

21. (currently amended): A method of improving a digestibility of animal feed, comprising the step of treating ~~a cellulose containing fabric~~the animal feed with the cellulase according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1 or the cellulase preparation according to ~~claim 10~~.